

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) An arbitration method for operating a bus bridge which interfaces a primary-side bus with a plurality of secondary side buses, the primary-side bus being a local bus in a system and the secondary-side buses being external buses connected to the system, the bus bridge supporting a plurality of kinds of operations one of which is an operation related to a serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394, the arbitration method operating said bus bridge by giving an access right equally to each of the secondary-side buses, when access demands to the primary-side bus are lodged from more than two of the secondary-side buses at the same time, by not giving a priority to any one of the secondary-side buses, wherein a counter is used such that access rights are provided sequentially to the more than two secondary-side buses lodging access demands and at a same rate of the lodged access demands.

2. (Original) The arbitration method as claimed in claim 1, wherein one of the secondary-side buses is the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394, and the rest of the secondary-side buses are card buses.

3. (Original) The arbitration method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of:

giving a priority right to the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394; and

maintaining the access right given to the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394 when an access demand is lodged from the secondary-side buses other than the serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394.

4. (Previously presented) The arbitration method as claimed in claim 2, wherein the secondary-side buses include a plurality of card buses, the method comprising:

performing a first arbitration operation between the serial bus and at least two of the card buses when access demands are lodged from the serial bus and also from the at least two of the card buses; and

performing a second arbitration operation between the at least two of the card buses when an access right is to be given to only one of the at least two of the card buses.

5. (Original) The arbitration method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of changing an order of giving the access right.

6. (Original) The arbitration method as claimed in claim 1, further comprising the step of giving a highest priority to the primary side bus when the primary-side bus lodges an access demand to the secondary-side buses irrespective of a condition of arbitration between the secondary side buses.

7. (Previously presented) An arbitration method of a bus bridge which interfaces a primary-side bus with a plurality of secondary-side buses, the primary side bus being a local bus in a system and the secondary-side buses being external buses connected to the system, at least one of the secondary-side buses being a serial bus in accordance with IEEE 1394, the bus bridge supporting a plurality of kinds of operations one of which is an operation related to a serial bus in accordance with IEEE1394, the arbitration method comprising the step of giving a highest priority to the primary-side bus when the primary side bus lodges an access demand to the secondary-side buses irrespective of a condition of an arbitration between the secondary-side buses.

8. (Currently amended) An arbitration system, comprising:

a bus bridge;

a primary side bus; and

a plurality of secondary side buses coupled to the primary side bus via said bus bridge, wherein one of the secondary side buses is a serial bus in accordance with IEEE 1394, and the remaining secondary side buses are card buses and wherein the bus bridge is configured to arbitrate access rights requested by said secondary side buses by giving access rights equally to each of the secondary side buses, when access demands to the primary side bus are lodged from more than two of the secondary side buses at the same time, by not giving a priority to any one of the secondary side buses, wherein said system further comprises a counter such that access rights are provided sequentially to the more than two secondary-side buses lodging access demands and at a same rate of the lodged access demands.

9. (Canceled)